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19 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, PC SURVEY GROUP

SUBJECT: Aspects of Covert Operations Capabilities

1. This is responsive to the undertaking of each member of the Group to provide a check list of those factors which should be first considered by the Group in a comprehensive consideration of the capabilities of CIA for the planning and execution of covert operations in support of U. S. interests.

2. It seems to me that in the early stage of our consideration we must reiterate the excellent statement of the function of the PC Survey Group contained in paragraph 1 in which it states that the group will undertake such investigations, studies and inquiries as necessary to provide it with a basis for evolving the national covert contribution to national security. We have heretofore not been permitted the time to arrive deliberately at a considered role in this respect. Undoubtedly this is partially because a process of education had to be gone through first. It may very well be that such education and inter-play as between our own organization and our members shall have proceeded sufficiently far by now as to enable this group to reach some firm conclusions as to the appropriate role of the covert operations service. This in turn may result in a far reaching increase in effectiveness.

3. It seems to me that we might well consider the following kinds of issues before deciding upon any definitive studies:

a. Current capacity versus current obligations.

(1) In what manner do we receive requirements for current operations and what is the nature of requirements given us?

(2) Are these usually related?

(3) Do the area divisions seek or propose operations to the Defense and State Departments for assignment or approval? To what extent do these kinds of proposals add to the load?

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